

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling an optical power level, comprising the steps of:

a) increasing a control value of a driving signal generator for driving a pickup unit to output an optical power until the driving signal generator starts to generate a driving voltage; ~~and~~

b) setting the increased control value at which the driving signal generator starts to generate the driving voltage as an offset value for setting up a desired optical power of the pickup unit; and

c) calculating a control value for generating the desired optical power of the pickup unit based on the offset value,

wherein the control value for generating the desired optical power is previously stored in a nonvolatile memory in the form of a difference between the control value and an offset value for setting up the desired optical power.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the driving voltage of the driving signal generator is applied to a laser diode of the pickup unit, and a magnitude of the optical power is determined by a level of the driving voltage.

3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the offset value is stored in a nonvolatile memory.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the offset value is determined when an optical disc apparatus is initially driven.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step (b) includes the steps of:

b1) determining the control value at which the driving voltage of the driving signal generator reaches a predetermined voltage level; and

b2) subtracting a predetermined value from the determined control value, and setting the subtracted result value as the offset value.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the predetermined voltage level is within a threshold area of the driving voltage of the driving signal generator.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as set forth in claim 8~~A method for controlling an optical power level, comprising the steps of:

a) increasing a control value of a driving signal generator for driving a pickup unit to output an optical power until the driving signal generator starts to generate a driving voltage; and

b) setting the increased control value at which the driving signal generator starts to generate the driving voltage as an offset value for setting up a desired optical power of the pickup unit; and

c) calculating a control value for generating the desired optical power of the pickup unit based on the offset value, wherein the step (c) includes the steps of:

c1) applying a predetermined control value and measuring a corresponding optical power of the pickup unit; and

c2) calculating the control value for generating the desired optical power based on the predetermined control value, the measured optical power corresponding to the predetermined control value, and the offset value,

wherein the control value for generating the desired optical power in the step (c2) is calculated by the following equation:

$$DAC_{DSL} = DAC_{offset} + \frac{DSL}{DSL_1} \times (DAC_1 - DAC_{offset}),$$

where DSL is the desired optical power,  $DAC_{DSL}$  is the control value for generating the desired optical power,  $DAC_{offset}$  is the offset value,  $DAC_1$  is the predetermined control value, and  $DSL_1$  is the measured optical power corresponding to  $DAC_1$ .

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in ~~claim 10~~claim 1, wherein the step (c) comprises the step of:

c3) calculating the control value for generating the desired optical power based on the offset value determined at step (b) and the difference stored in the nonvolatile memory.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in ~~claim 10~~claim 1, wherein the desired optical power is used for either one of a data recording mode, a data playback mode, and a disc discrimination mode.

13. (Cancelled)